10-23
(May 1929)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS	
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	SMITH	
	WILLIAMS	
	SHOREY	
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	SKINNER	
	SCHWEITZER	
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FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

January, 1942

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 6—7410

February 4, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of January, 1942:

Weather Conditions. The cold spell which started the day following Christmas continued throughout the first week in January and subzero temperatures were recorded through the seventh, the lowest temperature recorded at Mammoth being 28° below on New Year's morning, with 43° below at the Northeast entrance and 47° below at West Yellowstone on the same day. On the fourth a temperature of 50° below zero was recorded at West Yellowstone. Following the moderation of the cold spell, beginning on the eighth, excellent weather continued throughout the remainder of the month and much of the snow around headquarters had disappeared. However, a rain on the twenty-seventh, turning to a heavy snow on the twenty-eighth, deposited considerable new snow on the ground although the temperatures remained quite mild. All of the roads in the park were closed throughout the month with the exception of the section from Gardiner to Mammoth to the Northeast entrance and Cooke, which was kept open with snow plows for the benefit of Cooke and Silver Gate residents and to afford access to winter ski fields and an opportunity for winter visitors to view and photograph the wildlife.

Weather and Snow Depths. The maximum temperature for the month was 49° on the twenty-seventh, the minimum temperature -28° on the first, and the total precipitation was .89 inches. There was a total snowfall of 8.80 inches. There were ten clear days, ten partly cloudy and eleven cloudy days during the month. The prevailing winds were from the Southwest. Two sundogs were observed on the third.

The following snow depths were recorded over the park area at the end of the month:

Bechler River	49.0"	Mammoth	6.0"
Buffalo Lake	50.0"	Northeast Entrance	29.0"
Buffalo Ranch	19.0"	Old Faithful	28.0"
Cache Creek	28.0"	Pebble Creek	24.0"
Cascade Creek	51.0"	South Riverside	42.0"
Crevice	28.0"	Tower Falls	13.0"
East Entrance	16.0"	Thorofare	20.0"
Gallatin	20.0"	Snake River	29.7"
Lewis River Divide	54.9"	Sportsman's Lake	24.0"
Madison Junction	20.0"	West Yellowstone	29.0"

February 4, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of January, 1942:

Weather Conditions. The cold spell which started the day following Christmas continued throughout the first week in January and subzero temperatures were recorded throughout the month, the lowest temperature recorded at Mammoth being 42° below on New Year's morning, with 15° below at the Northeast entrance and 17° below at West Yellowstone on the same day. On the fourth a temperature of 30° below zero was recorded at West Yellowstone. Following the moderation of the cold spell, beginning on the eighth, excellent weather continued throughout the remainder of the month and much of the snow around headquarters had disappeared. However, a rain on the twenty-seventh, turning to a heavy snow on the twenty-eighth, deposited considerable new snow on the ground although the temperatures remained quite mild. All of the roads in the park were closed throughout the month with the exception of the section from Gardiner to Mammoth to the Northeast entrance and Cooke, which was kept open with snow plows for the benefit of Cooke and Silver Gate residents and to afford access to winter ski fields and an opportunity for winter visitors to view and photograph the wildlife.

Weather and Snow Depths. The maximum temperature for the month was 15° on the twenty-seventh, the minimum temperature -42° on the first, and the total precipitation was .09 inches. There was a total snowfall of 8.00 inches. There were ten clear days, ten partly cloudy and eleven cloudy days during the month. The prevailing winds were from the southwest. Two sundogs were observed on the third.

The following snow depths were recorded over the park area at the end of the month:

Beaver River . . .	19.0"	Mammoth	6.0"
Buffalo Lake. . . .	50.0"	Northeast Entrance . .	29.0"
Buffalo Ranch . . .	19.0"	Old Faithful	28.0"
Cache Creek	28.0"	Pebble Creek	24.0"
Cascade Creek . . .	31.0"	South Riverside . . .	12.0"
Crevice	28.0"	Tower Falls	13.0"
East Entrance . . .	16.0"	Thoroughfare	26.0"
Gallatin.	20.0"	Snake River	29.0"
Lewis River Divide.	51.5"	Sportsman's Lake . . .	24.0"
Madison Junction .	20.0"	West Yellowstone . . .	29.0"

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was on annual leave during the first half of the month but made a trip to Omaha January 6 to confer with the Regional Director and regional officials, returning to Denver on the eighth. He left on the seventeenth for a special assignment in Washington, D. C. Assistant Superintendent Emmert was acting during his absence.

A Tire Rationing Board to handle the tire rationing in Yellowstone National Park was appointed early in the month by R. L. Esmay, Executive Vice Chairman, Wyoming State Council of Defense, Cheyenne, Wyoming, consisting of Chief Clerk Neilson, Chief Ranger LaNoue and Senior Foreman Mechanic Miller, with Mr. Neilson as Chairman.

Two Yellowstone Park employees were placed on Military Furlough during the month due to their having entered the armed forces of the United States. Park Ranger Frank Hirst enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve on January 12, while Arnold Quist, Plumbers' Helper, (per diem) enlisted in the Army Air Corps on the twenty-sixth.

Skiing was particularly good in the park throughout the month and many week-end skiers enjoyed the ski field near Undine Falls. The ski tow operated by the Yellowstone Winter Sports Association was in operation throughout the month for its members and others who wished to use it.

Advice was received on January 12 that the Third Selective Service Registration will be held in the park on February 16 for men from the ages of 20 to 44 and arrangements will be made for conducting such registration at Mammoth. An unusual precedent was set in connection with this registration, in that authorization was received to register the men located at isolated places in the park by radio or telephone. A news dispatch regarding this authority was released by the Selective Service Office in Cheyenne and received nation-wide publicity.

In order to give the hunters who had come to hunt elk in the area north of the park in Park County, Montana an opportunity to view the wildlife in the park, a special game observation auto caravan was inaugurated beginning January 15. These caravans were under the direction of a naturalist and were to start at 1:30 each afternoon and cover the open road from Gardiner to the Lamar Ranger Station in the Lamar Valley. Few hunters took advantage of the service offered and the caravans, therefore, did not prove as successful as was hoped.

The special Red Cross War drive in the park netted $218.05, which amount was turned over to the Red Cross Director in Gardiner to be included in the amount raised for Park County, Montana.

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On January 31 authority was received to issue a supplemental payroll covering the automatic one-step promotions affecting those employees recommended for such promotions as of October 1, 1941 and January 1, 1942.

On January 15 Congressman William S. Hill of Colorado introduced in the United States Congress HR 6388 for the relief of certain Yellowstone Park personnel on account of the loss of personal property as a result of the fire at the Snake River Ranger Station on August 13, 1940.

Inspections. Dr. R. L. Sudheimer, Fish and Wildlife Service, Brigham, Utah; January 21. Kenneth Roahan, Fish and Wildlife Service, Billings, Montana; January 22. C. C. Fiske, Junior Engineer, Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho; January 29. Robert Yellowtail, Superintendent, Crow Indian Agency, Crow Agency, Montana; January 31.

Status of Private Lands. The case of the United States versus Roy Armstrong, et al., Civil No. 74, was opened at Helena on January 10 and concluded on the fifteenth. The Government was represented by C. W. Buntin, Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney, Lewistown, Montana, while the defendant was represented by Fred L. Gibson of Livingston and Wellington D. Rankin of Helena. Chief Ranger LaNoue, Assistant Chief Ranger Barrows, Park Ranger Gammill and C.C.C. Engineer Wohlbrandt were called by Mr. Buntin to Helena as witnesses for the Government. The jury awarded $5.00 per acre for 41.7 acres under consideration, plus $1600 damages for severance from the balance of the Yellowstone land, a total of $1808.50. Following the trial Mr. Buntin indicated that he would file a motion for a new trial.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. There was practically no field work accomplished during the month. Office work consisted of a study of the proposed Lake Sewer System, P. C. P. forms for Devils Tower, and a continuation of the summary of maintenance records for preparation of the shuttle cards. The 10-174 forms were brought up to date for all current projects.

General Publicity. The 1941 Annual Report for the park was mimeographed and distributed on January 7.

Maintenance. Road maintenance activities were carried forth on the Gardiner-Cooke section. Work consisted of several trips of the snow plow and removal of minor road slides.

On January 31 authority was received to issue a supplemental payroll covering the authorized one-step promotions effecting three employees recommended for such promotions as of October 1, 1941 and January 1, 1942.

On January 15 Congressman William S. Hill of Colorado introduced in the United States Congress HR 6920 for the relief of certain Yellowstone Park personnel on account of the loss of personal property as a result of the fire at the Lake Lodge Dinner Dances on August 13, 1940.

Inspections. Mr. R. L. Sudheimer, Fish and Wildlife Service, Brigham, Utah January 21. Kenneth Boehm, Fish and Wildlife Service, Billings, Montana; January 22. C. G. Plate, Junior Engineer, Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho January 29. Robert Yellowtail, Superintendent, Crow Indian Agency, Crow Agency, Montana January 31.

Status of Private Lands. The case of the United States versus Ney Armstrong, et al., Civil No. 711, was opened at Helena on January 10 and concluded on the 17th month. The Government was represented by C. W. Smith, Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney, Livingston, Montana, while the defendant was represented by Fred L. Gibson of Livingston and Wellington D. Rankin of Helena. Chief Ranger Lafferty, Assistant Chief Ranger Barrows, Park Ranger Sewall and U.S.C. Supervisor Wohlbrandt were called by Mr. Smith to testify as witnesses for the Government. The jury awarded $3.00 per acre for 41.7 acres under consideration, plus $1500 damages for severance from the balance of the Yellowstone land, a total of $1806.50. Following the trial Mr. Smith indicated that he would file a motion for a new trial.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. There was practically no field work accomplished during the month. Office work consisted of a study of the proposed Lake Dover System, P. G. P. Plans for Devils Tower, and a continuation of the summary of maintenance needs for preservation of the electric cards. The 10-17A forms were brought up to date for all current projects.

General Publicity. The 1941 Annual Report for the park was mimeographed and distributed on January 7.

Maintenance. Road maintenance activities were carried forth on the Gardiner-Cooke section. Work consisted of several trips of the snow plow and removal of minor road slides.

New Construction. Work continued throughout the month on the Mammoth Comfort Station, Project 401, consisting of installation of the plasterboard and roughing in of the water and sanitary facilities.

Special Improvement Activities. Only a sample contingent of approximately fifty men were available for C.C.C. activities during the month. Due to frost conditions, it was necessary to close down grading operations on the Mammoth Housekeeping Area, and the men were shifted in small crews to various other projects. Work was started on the crushing plant erection below the Game Ranch Area and is underway as well as preparation of the stone work for the culvert in the employees' area and the interior finishing of the employees' quarters. Some of the work was done on the Mammoth road project below the Mammoth utility area.

Park Operators. The proposed schedule of rates for the Yellowstone Park Company for the 1942 season was submitted to Washington on January 6. A supplemental schedule covering the Lake Lodge Cottages was sent in the following day. The store at Mammoth remained open throughout the month to accommodate local residents.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. One thousand seven hundred and seventy seven persons entered the park during January 1942 as compared to one thousand one hundred and sixty nine during January of 1941. The total persons entering for this travel year to date is 14,415 as compared with 13,939 for last year, an increase of 3.5%.

Ranger Service. Special daily hunting patrols were conducted along the northern boundary of the park, which were scheduled over the 24 hour period, due to a sharp increase in hunting activities in Montana. Boundaries in snowbound sections of the park were covered by ranger ski patrols along all vulnerable points to trappers and poachers. Continuance of a special "Mammoth Area" patrol, started after December 7, 1941, to make regular inspections of buildings, equipment, power plants, powder and cap storage houses is being conducted by ranger personnel.

Police Protection. No law enforcement cases were held before the U. S. Commissioner this month.

Wildlife Protection. Bighorn: A bighorn ewe which appeared to be suffering with a severe infestation of scab mites was killed during early January between Mammoth and Gardiner and skin specimens were sent to Dr. E. R. Quortrup, in Charge, Bear River Wildlife Disease Research Station, Brigham, Utah, and to Dr. Radleigh Marsh, of the Montana State Veterinary Research Laboratory, Bozeman, Montana. Reports were received from each laboratory identifying the infestation

as that of mange (or scab) mites. This particular animal was severely infested, having a large dark scabby patch over the shoulders and part way down the back and sides.

Deer: Deer are particularly numerous in the Mammoth area where they continue to feed to an undesirable extent upon refuse and shrubbery. About 40 of the animals frequent the Mammoth elk trap daily and it is believed that the trapping and removal of these animals to a more natural range would be beneficial to them, as well as alleviate damage to landscape plantings at Mammoth. This matter has been referred to the Washington Office.

Elk: The elk hunting season in Park County, Montana, which closed on the evening of January 31, was fairly successful in bringing about a considerable reduction of surplus elk, although the desired reduction of at least 3,000 animals was not attained. At the close of the month hunters' kills (both legal and illegal) and accidental deaths accounted for a total of 2,061. It is possible that all data are not yet in and that some slight change may be made in the above total.

The total given above does not include reduction through live shipments, some of which are still pending and will be summarized later. Attempts at live trapping have been moderately successful and it is hoped that all requests, totalling about 170 animals, can be filled this winter. The following live shipments were made in January:

January 25	Rocky Mountain Sportsmens' Assn. (Butte, Mont.)	24 elk
January 26	Idaho Falls (Idaho) City Park	1 elk
January 26	Sheridan (Wyoming) City Park	3 elk
	Total shipped	28 elk

In accordance with the new Service policy, tests for Brucellosis infection were made on January 22, 23 and 24 on a group of 38 elk, mostly older animals, with the assistance of Dr. H. L. Sudheimer, Assistant In Charge, Bear River Wildlife Disease Research Station, Fish and Wildlife Service. Since all of these tests gave negative results, approval of the Fish and Wildlife Service and of our Washington Office was granted for continued shipping of live elk with intermittent testing. It was found that the operation of testing with our rather poor facilities seriously delayed and restricted live elk shipments and caused additional injuries and physical deterioration to the animals, due to additional handling and the necessity of holding for longer periods in the corrals. It is hoped that under the present arrangement it may be possible to complete all shipments for which we have requests and that tests can be made on another representative group of animals to further determine the health status of the herd.

Some poaching of elk occurred during the month. While insufficient evidence was obtained for apprehension of the violators, the carcasses were discovered in most cases in time to save the meat. Five of these and nine accidentally killed in the park were allotted to the Crow Indian Agency and were called for by trucks from that agency.

Waterfowl Census: A waterfowl census, in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, was held during the latter part of the month, principal counting being done on January 24, 25 and 26. A summary of this census for Yellowstone National Park is given below:

	1942 Actual Count	1941 Actual Count	1942 Estimate	1941 Estimate
Total ducks	1690	1528	2568	1925
Total Canada Geese. .	346	240	407	308
Total Trumpeter Swan.	66	61	93	91
Grand total-all Waterfowl-	-2102	1829	3068	2324

(Four Wilson's snipes seen not included above.)

Fish Culture: Due to changes in fish hatchery capacities and arrangements being made between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Montana, the 1942 Fish Planting Plan for Yellowstone National Park has been delayed. However, it is anticipated that this plan will be completed within a short time and forwarded to the Washington office.

Accidents. One minor automobile accident occurred during the month involving a privately operated oil tank truck. Damages were slight with no injuries. Snow and icy conditions on the road surface caused the truck to skid off the road.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees' Union Local was held in the Canteen on January 5. New Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Hugh Peyton, President; Clyde P. Elliott, Vice-President; Earl Semingsen, Secretary-Treasurer; Arnold P. Quist, Guardian. Walter Gammill, Duane Mylerberg, Albert Long, Thomas Thompson and Wyman P. Benson were elected directors.

A baby girl was born to Assistant Park Naturalist and Mrs. David deL. Condon at the Park Hospital in Livingston just before midnight January 31. The new arrival will be named Mary Ann.

J. W. Emmert,
Acting Superintendent.

cc- Regional Director,
Region Two.

Some poaching of elk occurred during the month. While insufficient evidence was obtained for apprehension of the violators, the occasions were discovered in ample time to save the meat. Five of these and nine accidentally killed in the park were allotted to the Crow Indian Agency and were called for by trucks from that agency.

Waterfowl Census: A waterfowl census, in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, was held during the latter part of the month, primarily counting being done on January 24, 25 and 26. A summary of this census for Yellowstone National Park is given below:

	1962 Actual Count	1961 Actual Count	1962 Estimate	1961 Estimate
Total ducks	1,690	1,938	2,025	1,925
Total Canada Geese. .	345	240	400	300
Total Trumpeter Swan.	66	61	55	61
Grand total-all Waterfowl--	2,102	1,839	2,480	2,286

(Four Eagles's eagles seen are included above.)

Fish Culture: Due to changes in fish hatchery operations and arrangements being made between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Montana, the 1962 Fish Planting Plan for Yellowstone National Park has been delayed. However, it is anticipated that this plan will be completed within a short time and forwarded to the Washington office.

Accidents: One minor automobile accident occurred during the month involving a privately operated oil tank truck. Damages were slight with no injuries. Snow and icy conditions on the road surface caused the truck to slide off the road.

Miscellaneous: The regular monthly meeting of the Federal employees' Union Local was held in the Canyon on January 5. New officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Jack Ryan, President; Clyde F. Millett, Vice-President; Earl Sampson, Secretary-Treasurer; Arnold F. Quick, Guardian. Walter Connell, Shane Wylie, Albert Long, Thomas Thompson and Tyman F. Hanson were elected directors.

A baby girl was born to Assistant Park Naturalist and Mrs. Bartlett. Condon at the Park Hospital in Livingston just before midnight January 31. The new arrival will be named Mary Ann.

A. M. Sweet,
Acting Superintendent.

co- Regional Director.
Region Two.